

REMARKS

Applicants hereby submit a 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 Declaration from Richard E. Meyer. The Affidavit states that Richard E. Meyer is not a co-inventor of the invention disclosed and claimed and not a co-inventor of the subject matter relating to this application that was disclosed and not claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,349,898B1 to Leonard et al. Therefore, Leonard et al. is no longer a valid reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and Claims 1-6 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of the pending application are in condition for allowance over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage through issuance. Accordingly, Applicants submit that entry of this Response is proper because the claims of this patent application are placed in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}



Michael S. Smith
Registration No. 39,563
Direct Dial: 206.749.9888

MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

1/23/04

Date of Deposit


Michelle J. Carman